

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 -10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for restoring authorization codes assigned to a licensee by a licensor for a dongle, said method comprising:

storing on a first computer to which a first dongle is connected via an interface parameters associated with each of a plurality of authorization codes stored on the first dongle, but not storing on the first computer the authorization codes, the plurality of authorization codes being associated with at least two different licensors, the first computer storing with the parameters information for enabling contact with each of the at least two different licensors;

sending to a central management computer the parameters for each of the plurality of authorization codes and the information for enabling contact with the at least two different licensors by the central management computer, the central management computer being programmed for using the information enabling contact with the at least two different licensors to send parameters associated with a first licensor of the at least two licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with any of the other of the at least two licensors;

after sending the parameters, receiving a restored authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by the dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code in a second dongle connected to the first computer.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the parameters are signed with time information for protection and are stored at least partially in encrypted form.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving the parameters at the second computer;
evaluating the parameters; and
deciding with the second computer whether or not to return to the first computer the restored authorization code.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the parameters include time information, the method further comprising:
communicating time information from the first computer to the second computer;
evaluating the time information at the second computer; and
generating the restored authorization code based on the time information.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
establishing a remote data connection between the first computer and the second computer for communicating the restored authorization code from the second computer to the first computer.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the parameters are stored in a file that contains an unmodifiable serial number of the dongle and said method further comprising:

reading the serial number from the file;
sending the serial number to the central management computer; and
storing the serial number in a block list at the central management computer.

21-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the authorization code is storable only on the access-protected data processing device.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium, excluding signals, storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring authorization codes assigned to a licensee by a plurality of licensors for a replacement dongle, the method comprising:

storing on ~~the a first~~ computer, to which is connected an original dongle containing original authorization codes associated with a plurality of different licensors license parameters stored on a first computer and associated with, but not containing, the original authorization codes assigned to the licensee for the dongle;

sending with the ~~first~~ computer the read license parameters to a central management computer, the central management computer receiving the parameters and sending only parameters associated with a first of the at least two licensors to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with any of the other of the at least two licensors;

receiving with the ~~first~~ computer a restored authorization code sent by the first licensor in a format that can be interpreted by the dongle but not by the computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the computer in the format.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

37. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the process further comprises sending time information stored with the parameters.

38-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein sending with the ~~first~~ computer the read license parameters further comprises:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer ~~of the licensee~~ and a computer of the licensor.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the dongle and said process further comprises:

reading the serial number from the file; and
sending the serial number to a management computer.

43. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

reading parameters from a first dongle, which is connected via an interface to a first computer used by a licensee and stores a plurality of original authorization codes from different ones of a plurality of licensors, each of the parameters being associated with one of the plurality of authorization codes and one of the plurality of licensors;

storing on the first computer the parameters read from a first dongle;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the license parameters to a central management computer, ~~thereby causing~~ the central management computer being specially adapted for to sending the parameters associated with authorization codes of a first of the at least two licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with authorization codes of any of the other of the at least two licensors;

after sending the license parameters to the central management computer, receiving a restored authorization code from the first licensor at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by a replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the first computer.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters and the information for enabling contact with each of the plurality of licensors is stored in a file on the first computer and the original authorization code is not stored in the file.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the license parameters are signed with time information and are stored at least partially in encrypted form in a file stored on the first computer, and wherein sending the license parameters to the central management computer comprises transmitting the file to the central management computer.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are stored in an encrypted form.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the parameters are associated with first dongle and the original authorization code stored by the first dongle.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising:
receiving at the second computer parameters from the central management computer;
evaluating the parameters;
deciding with the second computer whether or not to restore an authorization code based on the evaluation of the parameters; and
generating the restored authorization code based on the parameters and returning to the first computer the restored authorization code if it is decided to restore an authorization code, and otherwise not returning an authorization code.

49. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 43, wherein the parameters for at least one of the plurality of authorization codes includes time information; and wherein the restored authorization code has been generated based on the time information.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 43, further comprising storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to the central management computer, and storing the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the central management computer.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) Computer readable media, excluding signals, for storing first instructions that, when read by a first computer, cause the first computer to execute a backup process and for storing second instructions that, when read by a central management computer, cause the central management computer to perform a process for restoring authorization codes assigned to a licensee by licensors to a dongle,

wherein the backup process comprises:

reading parameters from a first dongle, which is connected via an interface to a first computer used by a licensee and stores a plurality of original authorization codes from different ones of a plurality of licensors, each of the parameters being associated with one of the plurality of authorization codes and one of the plurality of licensors;

storing on the first computer the parameters read from a first dongle;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the parameters to a central management computer;

after sending the license parameters, receiving from the first licensor a restored authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by a replacement dongle and not by the first computer; and

storing the restored authorization code on a replacement dongle connected to the first computer; and

wherein the process for restoring comprises:

receiving at the central management computer the parameters, and

sending parameters associated with authorization codes of a first of the at least two licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor and not sending to the

second computer parameters associated with authorization codes of any of the other of the at least two licensors.

54. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the original authorization code is not stored on the first computer.

55. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are signed with time information and are stored at least partially in encrypted form in the file.

56. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are stored in an encrypted form.

57. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters are associated with first dongle and the original authorization codes stored by the first dongle.

58. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the process for restoring further comprises:

receiving at the second computer parameters from the central management computer;
evaluating the parameters;

deciding with the second computer whether or not to restore an authorization code based on the evaluation of the parameters; and

generating the restored authorization code based on the parameters and returning to the first computer the restored authorization code if it is decided to restore an authorization code, and otherwise not returning an authorization code.

59. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the parameters include time information; and wherein the restored authorization code is generated based on the time information.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 53, wherein the backup process further comprises storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to the central management computer, and storing the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the central management computer.

62. (Previously presented) Apparatus for restoring authorization codes to dongles, the apparatus comprising:

a first computer programmed for storing parameters associated with each of the plurality of authorization codes stored on a first dongle attached to the first computer and assigned to a licensee by a plurality of licensors, and for storing information for enabling contact with each of the plurality of licensors; the first computer being further programmed to send the parameters and the information for enabling contacting each of the plurality of licensors to a central management computer in order to restore authorization codes, receiving restored authorization codes in a format that cannot be interpreted by the first computer and then storing the restored authorization codes in a second dongle connected to the first computer; and

a central management computer programmed for sending, in response to receiving the parameters and the information for enabling contact with the licensors, the parameters associated with a first licensor of the plurality of licensors only to a second computer associated with the first licensor in order to restore authorization codes associated with the first licensor and assigned to the licensee, and not sending to the second computer parameters associated with any of the other licensors.

63. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the first computer is further programmed for storing on the first computer an unmodifiable serial number of the first dongle, and sending the unmodifiable serial number from the first computer to the central management computer with the parameters; and wherein the central management computer is further programmed for storing, in response to receiving the unmodifiable serial number, the unmodifiable serial number in a block list at the central management computer.